



**U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement**

News Release

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Fischer Homes supervisors charged with harboring illegal aliens in worksite enforcement investigation

-- Four supervisors arrested on criminal charges and 76 illegal alien employees apprehended --

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Julie L. Myers, Assistant Secretary for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and Amul R. Thapar, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Kentucky, today announced the arrest of four construction supervisors of Fischer Homes Inc. and 76 illegal alien workers at Fischer Homes construction sites in Kentucky. Headquartered in Kentucky, Fischer Homes is a leading builder of homes in Indiana, Kentucky, and Ohio.

A coordinated investigation by ICE, the IRS-Criminal Investigation Division and local law enforcement agencies resulted in the arrest this morning of the four Fischer Homes construction site supervisors pursuant to criminal complaints issued in the Eastern District of Kentucky. Those arrested are:

- Timothy Copsy, a Fischer Homes construction manager
- Doug Witt, a Fischer Homes superintendent
- William Allison, a Fischer Homes superintendent
- Bill Ring, a Fischer Homes assistant superintendent

Each of the defendants is charged in a criminal complaint with aiding and abetting, harboring illegal aliens for commercial advantage or private financial gain. The maximum possible punishment for the crime charged is up to 10 years imprisonment, \$250,000 or both. The defendants made their initial appearance this morning in federal court in Covington, Kentucky.

During the enforcement operation today, ICE agents also apprehended 76 illegal alien workers at three Fischer Homes construction sites in Hebron, Union and Florence, Kentucky.

"Today's case is another tough step in our targeted and aggressive enforcement of our immigration laws within the interior of the United States," said Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff. "We will continue to bring criminal actions against employers who are consistently harboring illegal aliens. We will stop this type of illegal facilitation."

ICE Assistant Secretary Myers said, "ICE has no tolerance for corporate supervisors who harbor illegal aliens for their workforce and deny labor opportunities for legitimate American employees. This enforcement action demonstrates how we will use all our investigative tools to bring these individuals to justice, no matter how large or small the company."

Assistant Secretary Myers and U.S. Attorney Thapar praised the collective efforts of the local and federal community who are giving their time, expertise, and full cooperation to this ongoing effort. A criminal complaint is an accusation only and that person is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

#ICE#

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.